

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8498

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 00118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY ASEAN SECRETARY GENERAL AND FONDEPT OFFICIAL
ON ASEAN AND INDOCHINA

1. SUMMARY. COMMENTING TO JAKARTA PRESS DEC 30 ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO JAPAN, ASEAN SECRETARY GENERAL DHARSONO NOTED THAT JAPANESE OFFICIALS DESIRED CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBERS AND THE INDOCHINESE STATES. DHARSONO SAID MAIN OBSTACLE TO BETTER RELATIONS WAS EXISTENCE OF COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES, BUT HE HOPED ECONOMIC COOPERATION COULD BE ACHIEVED IN SUCH AREAS AS RUBBER PRODUCTION AND MARKETING AND REACTIVATION OF THE MEKONG PROJECT. FONDEPT OFFICIAL IN MEANTIME TOLD US THAT GOI CHIEF OF MISSION CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED NO NEW DEPARTURES IN INDONESIAN POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINA STATES AND THAT GOI WILL CONTINUE TO URGE DEVELOPED NATIONS NOT TO ASSIST SRV IN BUILDING AN INDUSTRIAL BASE. END SUMMARY.

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2. AFTER REPORTING TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO JAPAN FOR TALKS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS, ASEAN SECRETARY GENERAL DHARSONO TOLD REPORTERS DEC 30 THAT JAPAN HAD HOPED TO STAGE A MEETING BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBERS AND INDOCHINESE STATES AT ONE TIME. THE MEETING WAS NEVER OFFICIALLY PROPOSED TO EITHER SIDE, HE NOTED, BUT JAPAN STILL DESIRES CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT MORE

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. DHARSONO SAID JAPAN COULD FURTHER SUCH A RAPPROCHEMENT BY PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BOTH SIDES.

3. DHARSONO STATED HIS CONVICTION THAT ASEAN AND THE INDO-CHINESE STATES CAN ACHIEVE CLOSE COOPERATION IN THE LONG RUN THROUGH REFRAINING FROM INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS AND NOT ASSOCIATING THE COOPERATION WITH IDEOLOGICAL TIES. HE SAID THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO COOPERATION WAS THE EXISTENCE OF COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE INDOCHINESE STATES GIVE MORAL SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS BECAUSE OF THEIR IDEOLOGICAL SOLIDARITY, HE OBSERVED, WHILE THE ASEAN STATES HAVE THE RIGHT TO WIPE OUT ANY KIND OF INTERNAL REBELLION.

4. JAKARTA PRESS DEC 30 ALSO FEATURED COMMENTS MADE EARLIER IN JAPAN BY DHARSONO ON ASEAN-INDOCHINA COOPERATION. HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT REACTIVATION OF THE MEKONG PROJECT COULD PROVIDE A MEANS TO PROMOTE IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN ASEAN (PARTICULARLY THAILAND) AND THE INDOCHINESE STATES, AND SAID ASEAN MEMBERS COULD ADVOCATE IT IN THE UN. HE NOTED THAT VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ARE ALSO RUBBER PRODUCERS, AND MIGHT JOIN WITH ASEAN MEMBERS IN MAKING A COMMON APPROACH TO CONSUMERS LIKE JAPAN. DHARSONO SAID ASEAN HAS NOT CONTACTED THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES ON THIS MATTER, BUT HE WAS CONVINCED THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT SINCE IT WOULD BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

5. COMMENTING ON INDOCHINESE OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED
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ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, DHARSONO SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT THE INDOCHINESE STATES WANTED TO ESTABLISH A STRONG POSITION BASED ON THEIR DOMESTIC VICTORIES BEFORE AGREEING TO SUCH A ZONE, WHICH HE HOPED THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY DO.

6. IN DEC 31 CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNSELOR, FONDPT LEGAL DIRECTOR AND AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO LAOS SUFRI JUSUF STATED THAT INDONESIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN TOKYO HAD RECOMMENDED NO NEW DEPARTURES IN GOI POLICY TOWARD INDO-CHINA. GOI WOULD CONTINUE, HE SAID, TO URGE DEVELOPED NATIONS NOT TO PROVIDE SRV ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD HELP IT EXPAND ITS INDUSTRIAL BASE. JUSUF SAID PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S RECENT MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTERS LEE AND THANIN HAD SERVED TO CONFIRM THAT ASEAN GOVERNMENTS SHARED SAME OUTLOOK TOWARD INDOCHINESE STATES (ALTHOUGH HE POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIAN INITIATIVE AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY HAD NOT HAD INDONESIAN BLESSING). GOI DID NOT SEE INDOCHINESE EVER JOINING ASEAN OR ACCEPTING

CURRENT ZPFN CONCEPT BUT COULD ENVISAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION
IN NEW SEA ORGANIZATION AS CHARTER MEMBERS. IN GOI VIEW
FORMATION OF ANY NEW ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL
INDIVIDUAL ASEAN STATES HAD ESTABLISHED GREATER NATIONAL
RESILIENCE, JUSUF SAID.

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